

## ABSTRACT

GAI Consultants, Inc. (GAI) of Monroeville, Pennsylvania, conducted a historic architectural survey and National Register evaluation in connection with the proposed reconstruction and replacement of Bridge 599 on Bengel Road (Route 253) near Yorklyn in New Castle County, Delaware. GAI conducted this architectural survey and National Register evaluation between October and November 2000 for the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT).

The methodology of the historic architectural survey and National Register evaluation of Bridge 599 consisted of four (4) phases:

- 1) GAI established an Area of Potential Effect (APE) consisting of 1,000 feet on all sides of Bridge 599;
- 2) GAI conducted background research on the history of both Bridge 599 and the surrounding area, as well as a site files search for previously surveyed historic resources in the project vicinity;
- 3) GAI conducted fieldwork on Bridge 599 and completed a *Cultural Resource Survey Structure Form* on the bridge;
- 4) GAI evaluated Bridge 599 for its eligibility for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or as a contributing historic resource in the National Register-listed Auburn Mills Historic District. GAI evaluated the National Register eligibility of Bridge 599 according to National Register Criteria; the historic context for the project area; and the bridge's structural condition and integrity.

GAI recommends that Bridge 599 does not possess the necessary architectural/engineering significance and architectural integrity for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Bridge 599 is an undistinguished example of a common bridge type from this period. It is in deteriorated condition, and has undergone numerous repairs over the years that have compromised its structural integrity.

GAI recommends that Bridge 599 does not possess the historical significance and architectural integrity to be considered a contributing historic resource in the Auburn Mills Historic District. Built circa 1932, Bridge 599 does fall within the period of significance for the Auburn Mills Historic District. However, the bridge is a replacement of at least one, possibly more, previous bridges over this millrace. It does not relate to the manufacturing or architecture themes that form the basis for the historic district's significance. The bridge is in deteriorated condition and lacks the necessary architectural integrity to contribute to the historic significance of the Auburn Mill Historic District.